NEBRASKA
WEATHER & CROPS

For Week Ending May 24, 1992

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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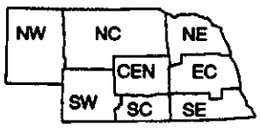
National Weather Service



Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Cooperative Extension Service
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WEATHER

The week began warm and ended on the mild side. Temperatures averaged near normals except in the northwest and north central portions where they averaged five degrees above normals. Precipitation occurred midweek with amounts varying from none up to over one inch.

GENERAL

Rainfall received over various areas of the State brought temporary relief to some and washing rains to others, according to the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Areas where rainfall was not received continued to have crops stressed by the dry conditions and hot, strong winds depleting more soil moisture. Irrigation continued to be used, where possible, to get crops started. Western Nebraska farmers remain seriously concerned about the availability of irrigation water now and during the growing season if substantial rains aren't received. Dry bean planting has started in western counties with about 10% of seeding completed.

CROPS

Wheat condition was rated at 3% very poor, 51% poor, 37% fair, and 9% good. Hot, dry, windy weather conditions continued to stress wheat stands in various areas of the State. Yield potential continued to deteriorate where these conditions existed. The crop was heading fast and early, and in some cases, at a less than normal plant height. To date, 90% has headed. This compares with 43% last year at this time and 45% for the 5-year average.

Corn planting was virtually complete with some replanting activity underway. Localized heavy rains this past week caused some "washing out" and "mudding under" of some planted acreage. Replanting was underway in these areas as well as in areas where no moisture has fallen and seeds have been in the ground too long. Cultivation has begun where weeds present a problem, in some cases where herbicide applications were not rain activated. Corn condition was rated at 5% poor, 36% fair, 52% good, and 7% excellent.

Soybean planting made good progress last week with 74% completed as of Sunday. This compares with 50% last year and 52% for the average. Producers waiting for rain before planting, in many cases, are waiting for fields to dry before finishing planting activities. Grain sorghum planting made similar progress with 68% completed to date. A year ago, 43% was planted and for the 5-year average, 44% was planted.

Alfalfa condition was rated at 10% poor, 27% fair, 59% good, and 4% excellent. Alfalfa weevils causing problems in the East Central and Southeast Districts have prompted producers to apply chemicals for control or to harvest early, depending on growth of the crop. Normal first cutting activity was also underway with 16% cut to date. This compares with 4% last year and 12% for the 5-year average. Wild hay condition was rated at 5% very poor, 8% poor, 41% fair, 45% good, and 1% excellent.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture and range condition was rated at 79% of normal and compares with last year at this time at 88% of normal. Cattle continued to be moved onto summer pastures. Additional moisture remained a necessity for continued spring grass growth and adequate summer grazing. Some rotating of cattle between grazing areas has been necessary in some areas.

FIELD WORK PROGRESS AS OF MAY 24, 1992	AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS DISTRICTS								STATE	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR	AVER-AGE
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% corn planted	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	98	94	95
% corn emerged	99	79	92	100	100	99	100	100	97	59	69	70
% sorghum planted	0	59	69	78	79	30	82	62	68	36	43	44
% sorghum emerged	0	6	18	37	38	11	14	25	26	2	18	19
% soybeans planted	0	63	56	80	77	62	100	87	74	42	50	52
% soybeans emerged	0	19	10	31	34	19	38	49	30	5	20	22
% wheat headed	87	42	32	89	53	100	100	92	90	25	43	45
% alfalfa first cutting	1	6	8	9	23	42	46	38	16	0	4	12
DAYS SUITABLE AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION AS OF MAY 22, 1992												
Days suitable	5.8	5.4	2.5	4.2	2.2	6.1	5.9	4.6	4 2	6.2	3.6	
Topsoil moisture - Short	83	54	0	33	0	89	100	60	45	85	4	
(Percent) - Adequate	17	46	76	67	81	11	0	40	47	15	73	
- Surplus	0	0	24	0	19	0	0	0	8	0	23	
Subsoil moisture - Short	92	31	0	17	0	67	60	47	33	34	31	
(Percent) - Adequate	8	69	100	83	96	33	40	53	66	66	67	
- Surplus	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	2	

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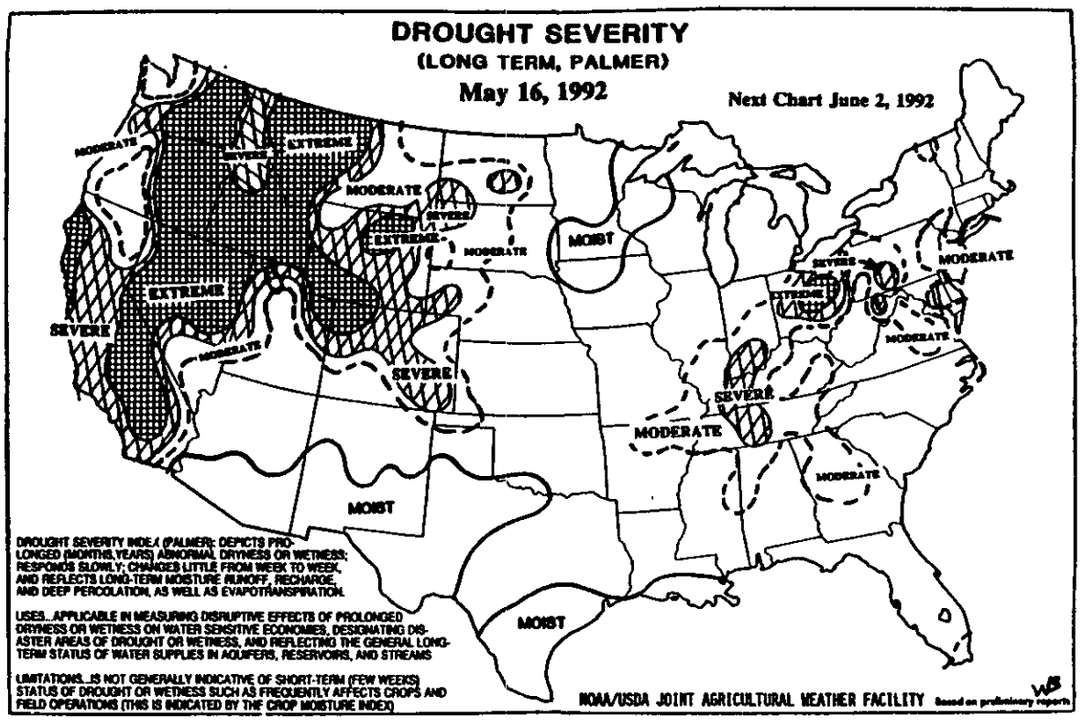
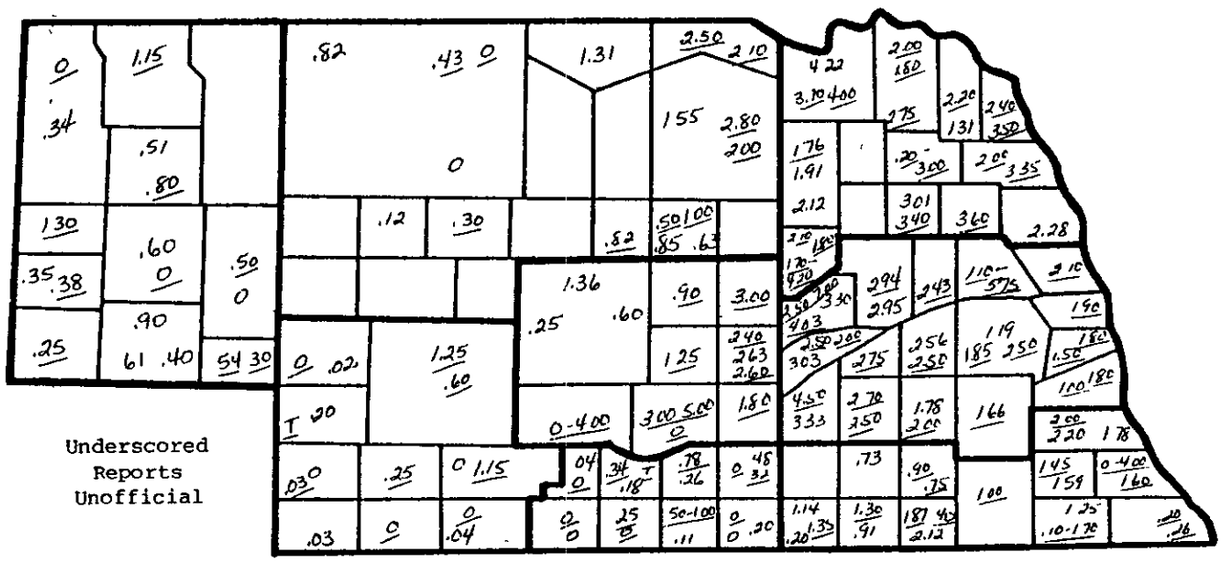


PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1992



Underscored Reports Unofficial

PRECIPITATION, APRIL 1 - MAY 22, 1992

	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.46	.71	2.48	1.21	2.59	.05	16	1.32
Total since April 1	1.36	1.48	4.33	2.24	4.30	.57	1.06	3.38
Normal since April 1	3.93	4.53	5.17	4.95	5 64	3.98	4 67	5.60

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND GROWING DEGREE DAY DATA, WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1992

Station		Temperature				Precipitation	Growing Degree Data Since April 15		
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/	Last Week	Current	Normal
		Max	Min						
NW	Chadron	95	38	65	---	.92	---	---	---
	Scottsbluff	93	42	64	+5	1.15	419	522	346
	Sidney	89	40	63	---	0	395	471	356
NC	Valentine	95	36	65	+6	.43	382	493	337
NE	Norfolk	84	41	64	+2	.19	---	---	---
	Sioux City	83	41	63	0	.14	---	---	---
	Concord	---	---	- -	---	---	311	399	412
	Elgin	---	---	---	---	---	325	412	388
	West Point*	---	---	- -	---	---	336	423	423
CEN	Grand Island	81	39	63	0	.05	383	492	396
	Ord	82	38	62	---	.08	367	462	412
EC	Lincoln	83	43	65	+1	55	399	520	428
	Omaha	83	44	65	+2	.84	372	487	394
	Columbus	---	---	- -	---	---	365	480	409
	York	---	---	- -	---	---	377	484	435
SW	Imperial	87	38	64	---	.01	---	---	---
	North Platte	83	36	62	+2	.26	**390	**477	**398
SC	Holdrege	---	---	- -	---	---	408	498	436
SE	Beatrice	---	---	- -	---	---	385	482	488
	Clay Center	---	---	- -	---	---	386	479	448

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above. * Automated weather station ** North Platte Experiment Station.

Growing Degree Days (GDD) are used to measure the length of time required for a crop to reach maturity. The formula used to calculate GDD is: Max. temp + min. temp. divided by 2 minus 50 = GDD For example, if the average temperature for a day = 70 degrees, the GDD = 20 for that day GDD are calculated for each day and accumulated from April 15

Growing Degree Day data is furnished by the Department of Agricultural Meteorology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.